

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, UN

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE FOR US DELEGATION TO UN OUTER SPACE
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOMICAL COMMITTEE

1. FOLLOWING IS GUIDANCE FOR USDEL TO UN OUTER SPACE
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE (STSC). PRO-
VISIONAL AGENDA CONTAINED IN UN DOCUMENT A/AC.105/C.1/L.91
OF 14 DEC. 76. DEL SHOULD REPORT FULLY ON REGULAR BASIS
STSC PROCEEDINGS AND VIEWS OF OTHER DELS.

2. THERE ARE NO SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROVISIONAL
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AGENDA ITEMS 1, 2 AND 3.

3. ITEM 4: QUESTIONS RELATING TO REMOTE SENSING OF THE
EARTH BY SATELLITES.

IN ITS OPENING STATEMENTS CONCERNING REMOTE SENSING THE
DELEGATION SHOULD AGAIN ENDORSE AND ENCOURAGE BROAD USE
OF THE EXPERIMENTAL PREOPERATIONAL LANDSAT SYSTEM.
REFERENCE SHOULD BE MADE TO BENEFITS BEING DERIVED BY
DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS. THE REGIONAL APPROACH

SHOULD BE ENDORSED AND CURRENT GROWTH TRENDS IN NUMBERS OF USERS AND LANDSAT GROUND STATIONS SHOULD BE REPORTED. THE DELEGATION SHOULD ALSO REFER TO THE EXISTENCE OF THE

NASA LANDSAT GROUND STATION OPERATIONS WORKING GROUP AND NOTE ITS SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING TO FACILITATE COORDINATION AMONG STATION OWNER/OPERATORS. THE SUBSTANCE OF PARAGRAPHS 33 AND 42 OF THE 1976 STSC REPORT SHOULD BE REPEATED AND THE DELEGATION SHOULD ENDORSE AND CONTINUE TO SUPPORT PARAGRAPHS 52 AND 58.

A. (I) DEFINITION OF THE TERM "DATA"

AT LAST YEAR'S MEETING OF THE STSC THE SWEDISH DELEGATION PROPOSED A STRUCTURING OF THE SYSTEM ELEMENTS OF REMOTE SENSING FOR PURPOSES OF ANALYSIS AND STUDY ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES (SEE 1976 STSC REPORT PARA 23):

1. DATA ACQUISITION
2. DATA RECEPTION (I.E. TELEMETRY)
3. DATA PREPROCESSING (FORMATTING AND RECORDING)
4. DATA STORAGE AND DISSEMINATION
5. ANALYSIS OF DATA (INTERPRETATION OR USER PROCESSING)
6. INFORMATION UTILIZATION (PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS BY USERS)

IN ITS MEETING LAST YEAR THE LEGAL SC EXAMINED THIS STRUCTURING AND IN PARA 8 OF ANNEX III TO ITS REPORT NOTED THAT IT CONSIDERED THAT ITEMS 1 THROUGH 4 CONFIDENTIAL

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CERNED "DATA" WHILE ITEMS 5 AND 6 CONCERNED "INFORMATION."

THE DELEGATION IS INSTRUCTED TO SUPPORT THE DEFINITION OF "DATA" IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE ABOVE STRUCTURING AND OBSERVATION AS LISTED IN PARA 8 OF ANNEX III OF LSC REPORT AND PARA 23 OF 1976 STSC REPORT. A FURTHER DELINATION MAY BE OFFERED BY NOTING, INTER ALIA, THAT "DATA" REFERS ONLY TO THE REPRESENTATION OF THE INTENSITIES OF ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION REFLECTED FROM (OR EMMITED BY) THE EARTH'S SURFACE WHEREAS "INFORMATION" REFERS TO ANY RELATIONSHIP INVOLVING OTHER PARAMETERS INFERRED FROM SUCH DATA. THE ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN INFORMATION AND DATA IS THAT "INFORMATION" IS A RESULT OF A COGNITIVE, ANALYTICAL PROCESS WHILE "DATA" ARE MERELY MEASUREMENTS OF THE PARTICULAR PARAMETER OF ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION INTENSITY.

(II) FULL UTILIZATION OF STSC'S TERMS OF REFERENCE

IN LAST YEAR'S REPORT (PARA 80), THE SUBCOMMITTEE LISTED THREE OPTIONS FOR STEPS TO IMPLEMENT A COORDINATION ROLE FOR THE UN IN REMOTE SENSING:

- (A) ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP ON REMOTE SENSING UNDER THE SUB-COMMITTEE;
- (B) APPOINT AN AD HOC PANEL OF EXPERTS; OR

(C) MAKE USE OF THE EXISTING TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE WITHOUT CREATING ANY FURTHER BODIES.

THE MAIN COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED OPTION (C) BUT ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT THE STSC CONSIDER FURTHER THE OTHER OPTIONS AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME.

THE DELEGATION IS INSTRUCTED THAT THIS YEAR'S MEETING IS NOT AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO CONSIDER OPTIONS (A) AND (B) AGAIN BECAUSE THE FULL POTENTIAL OF OPTION (C) HAS NOT YET BEEN EXPLORED. SHOULD THERE BE A WIDESPREAD IMPETUS FOR DISCUSSION OF (A) AND (B) THE DELEGATION MAY CONFIDENTIAL

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EXPLORE IN SUCH DISCUSSIONS THE MERITS AND DRAWBACKS OF ALL OPTIONS. NO AGREEMENT ON AN OPTION OTHER THAN (C) CAN BE POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION.

IN ANY DISCUSSION OF THE QUESTION OF A UN COORDINATING ROLE IN THE REMOTE SENSING AREA, THE DELEGATION SHOULD CONTINUE TO QUESTION ATTEMPTS TO GIVE THE UN AN OPERATIONAL ROLE, WHICH WOULD INTERFERE WITH NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PROGRAMS, AND SUGGEST INSTEAD THE CONCEPT OF REGIONAL DATA RECEPTION, PROCESSING, DISSEMINATION AND TRAINING CENTERS. AID IS CURRENTLY WORKING WITH THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA IN ESTABLISHING REGIONAL TRAINING CENTERS IN AFRICA. THE DELEGATION SHOULD DISCOURAGE SUPPORT FOR THE CONCEPT OF A SINGLE, GLOBAL, DATA PROCESSING AND DISSEMINATION CENTER ON GROUNDS OF HIGH COST, TECHNICAL COMPLEXITY, AND NON-COMPATIBILITY WITH PREVIOUSLY ENDORSED REGIONAL APPROACH.

THE DELEGATION SHOULD CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE FORMAT COMPATIBILITY (PARA. 38 OF STSC 1976 REPORT.)

B. FURTHER STUDIES ON REMOTE SENSING:

THE DELEGATION MAY COMMENT ON THESE STUDIES AS APPROPRIATE, BEING CAREFUL TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS, IMPLICATIONS, AND UNDERLYING ASSUMPTIONS CONTAINED IN THESE STUDIES.

5. ITEM 6: POSSIBLE UN CONFERENCE ON OUTER SPACE

A. IN RESPONSE TO OSC ENDORSEMENT OF A RECOMMENDATION MADE IN PARA. 103 OF THE STSC REPORT LAST YEAR, THE SECRETARIAT PREPARED A STUDY ON THE QUESTION OF CONVENING A UN CONFERENCE ON OUTER SPACE MATTERS. THE SECRETARIAT HAS PREPARED A DRAFT STUDY (A/AC.105/179) AS REQUESTED, WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE STSC MEETING CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS YEAR. THE STUDY CONCLUDES (PARA 17) THAT AN "ACTION-ORIENTED" CONFERENCE WOULD BE JUSTIFIED IF A CONSENSUS ON OBJECTIVES WERE ACHIEVED. THE DELEGATION SHOULD NOT AGREE THAT AN ACTION ORIENTATION IS A VALID

OBJECTIVE, BUT SHOULD NOT FOCUS ATTENTION ON THIS MATTER. PARA 21 OF THE STUDY OUTLINED A SUITABLE OBJECTIVE AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE, TO ADOPT EFFECTIVE MEANS FOR USING SATELLITE PROGRAMS TO ASSIST IN THE SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS OF REGIONAL OR GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE AND TO STRENGTHEN THE CAPABILITIES OF MEMBER STATES, IN PARTICULAR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, TO USE THE APPLICATIONS OF SPACE RESEARCH FOR THEIR OWN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. UNQUOTE.

WITH RESPECT TO OBJECTIVES OF A CONFERENCE ON SPACE, DOCUMENT A/AC.105/142 AND ITS ADDENDA, DEALING WITH VARIOUS RESPONSES OF COUNTRIES TO THE IDEA OF HAVING A CONFERENCE, DEMONSTRATES THAT NO CONSENSUS OR EVEN WIDESPREAD AGREEMENT ON OBJECTIVES EXISTS.

USG PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE CONVENING OF A SPACE APPLICATIONS CONFERENCE IF A CONSENSUS IN OSC DECIDED SUCH A CONFERENCE WAS NECESSARY AND WE INDICATED THAT A SIGNIFICANT FOCUS OF CONFERENCE SHOULD BE ON APPLICATIONS OF SPACE TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES. HOWEVER, WE CONTINUE TO QUESTION NEED FOR SEPARATE CONFERENCE IN VIEW OF CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF EXISTING AND POTENTIAL FORUMS ON SPACE APPLICATIONS. IN PARTICULAR, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ASPECTS OF SPACE APPLICATIONS CONFERENCE COULD BE SUBSUMED IN FORTHCOMING UN CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (UNCSTD) IN 1979, WHOSE AIMS (E/RES/2028(LXI)) INCLUDE: QUOTE

(1) TO ADOPT CONCRETE DECISIONS ON WAYS AND MEANS OF APPLYING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN ESTABLISHING A NEW
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INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, AS A STRATEGY AIMED AT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT WITHIN A TIME-FRAME;
(2) TO STRENGTHEN THE TECHNOLOGICAL CAPACITY OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SO AS TO ENABLE THEM TO APPLY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO THEIR OWN DEVELOPMENT;
(3) TO ADOPT EFFECTIVE MEANS FOR THE UTILIZATION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL POTENTIALS IN THE SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE, ESPECIALLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES;
(4) TO PROVIDE INSTRUMENTS OF COOPERATION TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE UTILIZATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FOR SOLVING SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS THAT CANNOT BE SOLVED BY INDIVIDUAL ACTION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES. UNQUOTE.

DELEGATION SHOULD OPPOSE RECOMMENDATION TO OSC FOR SEPARATE SPACE CONFERENCE AT THIS TIME, POINTING OUT THAT RESOURCES OF UN ARE ALREADY STRAINED AND SHOULD NOT BE COMMITTED TO THIS PURPOSE IN FACE OF ATTRACTIVE ALTERNATIVES. (SECRETARIAT ESTIMATES COST OF 10-DAY CONFERENCE WOULD EXCEED \$400,000.) DEL SHOULD ENCOURAGE ATTENTION TO QUESTION OF WHETHER PRESENT INSTITUTIONS COULD MORE EFFICIENTLY ADDRESS THE ISSUES PROPOSED FOR A CONFERENCE. IF SENTIMENT DEVELOPS IN FAVOR OF CONFERENCE, DEL SHOULD PROPOSE INCLUSION OF SPACE APPLICATIONS IN UN CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, POINTING OUT THAT SUCH APPROACH WOULD HAVE ADVANTAGES OF AVOIDING FRAGMENTED EFFORTS BY INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AND OF INTEGRATING SPACE APPLICATIONS WITHIN OVERALL FRAMEWORK OF TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT. IN ANY CASE, THE DELEGATION SHOULD RECOMMEND DEFERRAL OF FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF A UN SPACE CONFERENCE UNTIL AFTER THE RESULTS OF THE UNCSTD ARE EVALUATED. DEL SHOULD SEEK SUPPORT FOR THIS POSITION AMONG LIKE-MINDED DEVELOPED COUNTRY DELS.

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6. ITEM 7: OTHER MATTERS

A. COSPAR AND IAF REPORTS.

THE DELEGATION MAY COMMENT ON THE COSPAR AND IAF REPORTS AS APPROPRIATE. THE COSPAR REPORT HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND IS A USEFUL SUMMARY OF SPACE SCIENCE RESEARCH IN THE PERIOD COVERED. NO APPLICATIONS OF SPACE TECHNOLOGY ARE COVERED, NOR IS IT DESIRABLE TO EXTEND THE SCOPE OF THE REPORT TO APPLICATIONS.

B. COORDINATION BETWEEN LEGAL AND ST SUBCOMMITTEES:

UNDER THIS AGENDA ITEM MAY ARISE QUESTIONS OF (I) CRITERIA RELEVANT TO DEFINING QUOTE, NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE EARTH UNQUOTE; AND QUOTE, DATA ON THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE EARTH ACQUIRED BY REMOTE SENSING, UNQUOTE; (II) THE DELINEATION OF OUTER SPACE, AND (III) CRITERIA FOR DEFINING NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE MOON OR OTHER CELESTIAL BODIES.

THE DELEGATION SHOULD NOTE THAT THE STSC LAST YEAR WAS UNABLE TO PROCEED IN MATTERS (II) AND (III) WITHOUT GUIDANCE FROM THE COMMITTEE (STSC REPORT PARAS 109, 110 AND 111). THIS GUIDANCE HAS NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING AND THEREFORE FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THESE MATTERS SHOULD BE DEFERRED WITH, AT MOST, A NOTE IN THIS YEAR'S REPORT REITERATING LAST YEAR'S REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE.

IN PARAS 64 AND 68 OF LAST YEAR'S REPORT THE STSC DISCUSSED MATTER (I). INCLUDED IN THIS DISCUSSION WAS REFERENCE TO THE SOVIET PROPOSAL TO DIVIDE ALL REMOTELY SENSED DATA INTO TWO CATEGORIES: GLOBAL AND LOCAL. THE DISTINCTION WAS PROPOSED TO BE MADE ON THE BASIS OF RESOLUTION. IN SPITE OF THE VERY LIMITED SUPPORT EVINCED FOR THIS PROPOSAL AND THE FACT THAT IT WAS NOT DISCUSSED EXPLICITLY IN EITHER THE LEGAL SC OR THE COMMITTEE MEETINGS, IT MAY SURFACE AGAIN THIS YEAR.
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IF IT DOES, THE DELEGATION SHOULD RESPOND ALONG THE LINES OF PARAGRAPH 67 OF STSC 1976 REPORT WHICH QUESTIONS THE VALIDITY OF SUCH A DISTINCTION, AMBIGUITIES IN THE TERM RESOLUTION, THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN APPROPRIATE DIVIDING LINE, AND THE POSSIBLE DISCRIMINATORY CONSEQUENCES. THE DELEGATION SHOULD DISCUSS NO OTHER ASPECTS OF THE QUESTION UNTIL INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT ARE RECEIVED.

C.D.E.: NO SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS -- DELEGATION MAY COMMENT AS APPROPRIATE.

7. IN CONNECTION WITH DISCUSSIONS OF THE FUTURE WORK OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE THE DELEGATION SHOULD, AS APPROPRIATE, ENCOURAGE KEEPING TO ONLY THE DURATION NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE ASSIGNED WORK WITH CONSEQUENT ECONOMIES IN FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES.

8. SHOULD GENERAL QUESTIONS RELATING TO SEASAT ARISE, THE DELEGATION SHOULD CONFINE ITSELF TO THE REPLY THAT QUOTE, THE US IS CONTINUING TO DEVELOP AN EXPERIMENTAL OCEAN DYNAMICS SATELLITE, CALLED SEASAT-A, WHICH IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR LAUNCHING IN 1978. THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF SEASAT DATA USE BY INVESTIGATORS WILL BE ANNOUNCED WHEN THE US PLANS FOR LAUNCHING AND OPERATING SEASAT-A HAVE BEEN COMPLETED UNQUOTE.

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